Here's a simple test to see if you are who I described in the last blog post. If the money and users went away, would you leave technology? If you were building this stuff for free for you and your 5 friends, would you keep at it?

Math has this quality inherently. Perelman proved the Poincaré conjecture for him and his boys; no businessfuckers showed up and put ads in the proof, no politicsfuckers showed up and demanded the proof remind you that masks prevent the spread of covid. I wish this was true about tech.

At comma, our goal is to build one perfect box that drives a car better than a human. If we were the only one with that box, that would accomplish the goal of the company. Not making money or having users. Those things are fine, but the real goal is the building of the one magical box.

We need the cloud to go away. The cloud is a highway to serfdom. And this won't happen with changes to politics or culture, technology itself is upstream of both of them.

Apps like Gmail can host 10,000 users on a single box, so there was never hope that everyone would run their own mail server. The economy of scale is too good. You'd be swimming super upstream to get Web 2.0 off of the cloud. Call it cloud-favoring.

There's some good news in the form of the GPTs. ChatGPT can only host ~10 users on a box, though while ChatGPT has high requirements for compute, it has very low requirements for bandwidth. You could interact with it over a 56k modem. That tips the scales such that chatbots will remain in the cloud, even if we move to a model architechture that doesn't benefit from batching. The providers want you in the cloud. Call it cloud-neutral.

However, robotics is different! Both openpilot and Tesla FSD don't use the cloud and likely never will. The bandwidth and latency requirements are too high, and as with cars the same thing will be true for all shapes and sizes of robots. Gaming has always struggled to be in the cloud for similar reasons, note that when you buy a Switch or PS 5 the compute actually is local. Call these cloud-averse.
